

Meeting Summary of the SANBAG Board of Directors

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■ SANBAG requests \$330 million in state highway funding

SANBAG requested more than \$300 million from the 2006 State Transportation Improvement Program and the Traffic Congestion Relief Program during a hearing before the California Transportation Commission last month.

"With a history of making major local contributions to state highway projects, SANBAG is in a strong position to receive funds," said Executive Director Tony Grasso, who addressed the CTC on March 9.

SANBAG is requesting the following in the 2006 STIP:

- \$256.8 million to widen Interstate 215 in San Bernardino
- \$33 million for connections between I-215 and the soon-to-be-completed Route 210 in San Bernardino
- \$23.5 million to widen Interstate 15 in Victorville
- \$15.4 million to widen Route 138 from I-15 to the Los Angeles County Line

For the Interstate 215 project, which totals \$603 million, SANBAG already has committed \$346 million in local and federal dollars, a 57% share of the project. For the I-215/Route 210 connections, SANBAG has committed \$27 million in local funds toward this \$60 million project, a 45% share.

Securing these state funds for San Bernardino County is absolutely critical for economic revitalization, reuse of the former Norton Air Force Base complex, improved goods movement, better overall mobility for residents and commuters and enhanced air quality, Grasso explained.

SANBAG should hear whether state funding is secured for these projects by April 27.

■ Board congratulates long-timer Lisa Poe

Board members gave kudos to employee Lisa Poe, who recently completed 15 years with SANBAG.

A senior programming analyst in the Planning & Programming Department, Poe joined the agency in February 1991.

Board President Kelly Chastain presented her with a 15-year pin to commend her for her service.

Executive Director Tony Grasso congratulates Lisa Poe for her 15 years with SANBAG.



■ SANBAG hires firm to develop Redlands rail station plans

Passenger train service to Redlands moved a step closer with the hiring of Gruen Associates to help create a transit-oriented vision and plans for stations between San Bernardino and Redlands.

Six stations are proposed along the route — two in San Bernardino and four in Redlands, with one of the stations within a half-mile of Loma Linda. Gruen will work with representatives from the three cities, Metrolink, Omnitrans, SANBAG and the general public to identify preferred station locations, possible additional stations, land use policies that affect transit use, vehicle access to stations, redevelopment plans and future infrastructure plans for the area.

The firm also will create passenger forecasts for each station, develop maps, hold public meetings and meet with key project stakeholders, such as business groups and neighborhood groups. The final report will provide support for future requests of federal transit funds to expand passenger rail service to Redlands.

Gruen will team with Parsons Transportation Group and Moore Iacofano Goltsman for the work. The \$200,000 contract will begin this month and end by December.

Down the road . . .

- Apr. 12: Administrative Committee, 9 a.m.
- Apr. 13: Major Projects, 9 a.m.
- Apr. 19: Plans & Programs Committee, 12 noon
- Apr. 20: Committee Rail Committee, 12 noon
- Apr. 21: Mountain-Desert Committee, 8:30 a.m.

County residents weigh in on quality of life

Ninth annual survey examines, best, worst of San Bernardino County

Seven out of 10 county residents say that life is good, according to the ninth annual San Bernardino County Annual Survey, conducted by the Inland Empire Research Consortium from California State University, San Bernardino. The survey examines a variety of quality of life issues across San Bernardino County, including transportation, crime, public services, confidence in elected officials and the economy.

Researchers surveyed 1,079 residents by telephone November 8-December 13. Responses were analyzed countywide and by four zones — the East Valley, West Valley, Victor Valley and rural desert. The survey has a margin of error of 3%.

The best and the worst...

- 70% think the county is a very good or fairly good place to live. This rating was highest in the West Valley cities of Chino, Chino Hills, Fontana, Montclair, Ontario, Rancho Cucamonga and Upland (78%) and lowest in the East Valley communities of Big Bear, Bloomington, Colton, Cedar Glen, Crestline, Grand Terrace, Highland, Lake Arrowhead, Loma Linda, Lytle Creek, Mentone, Redlands, Rialto, Running Springs, San Bernardino, Twin Peaks and Yucaipa (56%).
- Respondents said the best thing about living in the county is the central location or scenery (29%), the climate (14%) and affordable housing (10%).
- When asked to name the worst thing about living in the area, 24% cited crime or gangs, 12% said traffic and 10% said smog or pollution. Traffic, which has been ranked the third worst problem in the county for several years, moved to the #2 position for the first time this year.



Transportation, commuting issues...

- Residents are frustrated by traffic. Nearly half (49%) said that traffic is a large problem in their area. In the Victor Valley (Adelanto, Apple Valley, Hesperia, Lucerne Valley, Phelan, Victorville and Wrightwood), 64% said traffic is a large problem, compared to just 23% in the Desert areas (Barstow, Earp, Hinkley, Joshua Tree, Landers, Morongo Valley, Needles, Trona, 29 Palms and Yucca Valley).
- Residents spend considerable time commuting to work. A total of 40% spend more than an hour on the road (30 minutes or more each way). Victor Valley residents have the longest commutes, while Desert residents commute the shortest amount of time.



- A number of residents are willing to take a pay cut to avoid their daily commute. Countywide, 21% said they would take a 10% cut in

pay, and 29% said they would take a 5% cut in pay to not have to drive as far to work. This willingness is greatest in the Victor Valley, where residents commute the longest.

- Call box use is declining, with only 9% reporting having used a call box in the past two years, compared to 18% in 1998. Most of the respondents said that San Bernardino County should keep its 1,600 call boxes, but relocate some to the more remote desert areas.

Safety, public service, the economy...

- Personal safety is a concern among residents. A total of 40% said that they are very fearful or somewhat fearful of being a victim of a serious crime.
- Perceptions of police services received the lowest rating during the nine years of the survey, with 61% viewing service as excellent or good. Approval was highest in the West Valley (69%) and lowest in the Desert (47%).
- Shopping received high marks. A total of 65% said that shopping opportunities were excellent or good. Again, the ratings were highest in the West Valley (77%) and lowest in the Desert (36%).
- Approval of public schools climbed from 37% last year to 43% this year who said that schools are excellent or good. The West Valley rated its schools highest (51%), while the East Valley rated schools lowest (37%).
- Confidence in elected officials hit the lowest level since the survey began: 54% said that they had a great deal of confidence or some confidence that elected officials would adopt policies that would benefit the community as a whole. Approval was highest in the West Valley (60%) and lowest in the East Valley (51%).
- A total of 46% rated the county economy as excellent or good—one of the highest ratings ever in the survey. Most respondents expect to be better off financially next year compared to this year.